

Dr. Glenn Ward Giddings:

Physics Prof Takes It Easy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following personality profile on local resident Glenn Ward Giddings, was written by Leisure World resident Verna P. Bishop. The profile is another in a series of personality spotlights highlighting Leisure World residents for their outstanding contributions.)

BY VERNA P. BISHOP

LAGUNA HILLS — "After you get to the top of the hill, it's easier and lots more fun going down", says Dr. Glenn W. Giddings. "In retirement one has the time to do the things he always wanted to do but didn't have the time."

His smiling eyes and quiet voice bespeak a quality of spirit and kindness that has made his work with his students so effective.

It is necessary to maintain the inquiring mind not to find the right answers, but to ask the right questions, which is the ultimate in education, says Dr. Glenn.

THE WALLS OF Dr. and Mrs. Giddings manor in Leisure World are indicative of their interests. Walls and walls of books, some acquired by a grandfather a century ago. This same grandfather was commissioned to establish the first school for Negroes in Arkansas after the Civil War, before the family migrated to Iowa.

Other wall spaces are filled with beautiful color prints of the many around the world where they have traveled. Dr. Glenn is an accomplished photographer and has photographed the Taj Mahal, the Bosphoros, the Alps, beautiful Thailand, and Oberammergau.

When he was in high school, Dr. Glenn entered a declamatory contest coached by a student from Cornell College. Through this student's recommendation he received a one year scholarship to



GLENN W. GIDDINGS

Cornell College. Still, he had to work at odd jobs to help pay his board of five dollars a week. When he was a sophomore he took a steady job as janitor, which he held for three years..

WHEN HE WAS a junior he became an assistant in physics to Dr. O.H. Smith, head of the department. For the first time his "A" record slipped a bit. Nevertheless, Dr. Smith urged him to go on to graduate school. Dr. Glenn received his Doctorate in physics at the University of Wisconsin. He decided

on a teaching profession because he said, "I loved to see the dawning light of understanding in my pupil's eyes."

For the next 12 years he was a member of the faculty of DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. He was assistant to Dr. Smith, who headed the physics department there. For the latter part of that time he was also Assistant Dean of Men.

World War II took Dr. Glenn to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he joined the Director of the Radiation Laboratory as technical Aide to the Director.

AT THE END of the war he became Manager of Research Personnel at the General Electric Research Laboratory in Schenectady where he engaged in recruiting scientists and in personnel administration. Later he became Consultant in Educational Relations for General Electric.

In this work he visited hundreds of colleges and universities participating in educational conferences, serving as official representative of the American Institute of Physics to the National Education Association.

Following his retirement Dr. and Mrs. Giddings toured around the world and then across the country looking for an ideal spot to retire. Their two sons live in widely separated areas, one in Oregon the other in the East. Leisure World was recommended to them by old friends of Greencastle days and they came here in 1966.

He has been the recipient of many honors; elected to American Men of Science, Who's Who in the East and to the World Who's Who in Commerce and Industry and voted Layman of the Year of his church.